



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

April 2004 Volume 65 Number 4

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



See www.aidrac.ca



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair' man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

A new website -
www.aidrac.ca has been set
up outside of RAC to serve as a
vehicle to express opinions and
share solutions with respect to
the problems facing RAC.



Puzzler - Do You Know?

If you have your Basic
and 5 wpm qualification
can you use a Heathkit
transceiver to operate on HF?

Answer on page 7

The **General Meeting** of the
Halifax Amateur Radio Club
will take place Wednesday,
April 21, 2004 at 1930 hours
(7:30 PM), at the former
Bloomfield School building
(corner of Almon and Agricola
streets). The meeting will be
held in the Multi-Purpose Room.
Fred (VE1FA) & Helen
(VA1YL) will talk about IOTA
& DXpeditions
Guests are welcome.

NOTICE

The Reflector is now available in
PDF format. Those wishing to save
the club printing and postage can re-
quest to receive it by E-mail and
print it off on their own printer.
Send request to Lynn Bowser at:
ve1ent@rac.ca

**Deadline for submissions to
the May Reflector is
Saturday, May 8, 2004**

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been
some changes.

This will be the rotation.



If you cannot take the net
on your particular evening get in
touch with one of the others and
trade places with them. If I have
left any one off the list, or you
want to join, please let Bill Elliott,
VE1MR, know.

April 18	Doug	VE1LDL
April 25	Larry	VA1LW
May 2	Herb	VE1HX
May 9	Dave	VE1EDA
May 16	Charles	VE1MCR
May 23	Chris	VA1CDB

DownEast Flea Market

When: Saturday May 15,
2004 at 10:00 AM
talk-in on 147.27 +



Where: the HALIFAX FORUM ANNEX (same as last year) Map and directions will be on the HARC web site soon

Admission \$3 for everybody
OPEN at 6:00 AM for sellers,
10:00 AM for buyers.



....suggest buyers do breakfast at Steak & Stein which is a 3 minute walk from the Forum

There will be demonstrations & displays...



- * RAC will have a table
- * NSARA will have their meeting
- * VE1WZ will represent DARC as our official flea market photo taker.
- * The QSL bureau will be there

Questions? Table reservations....
Contact David S Nimmo, VE1NN
ve1nn@rac.ca

The club is going to have a packet revival meeting on a Saturday morning during May or early June. If you are interested in learning how to operate packet radio or would like to refresh your memory please stay tuned for further announcements about the date. In the meantime, have a look at the packet information on the web site provided by the Lincoln (Nebraska) Amateur Radio Club...
<http://www.larc.unl.edu/packet/>

Rick VE1RGG
Second Vice President

The next meeting of the APRS group will be April 14 at 7:30 in the club station. – Dave, VE1EDA

The next meeting of the **satellite interest group** will be April 28 at 7:30 in the club station. Come out and see what is happening. If interested, please contact
John, VE1CDD at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

HARC Digital Communication Special Interest Group

Interested in Digital Communication? The structure of the group's activities and endeavours is very loose and aims to address topics like interfacing computers and amateur gear as well as communicating via digital modes on VHF, HF and UHF. We will attempt to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible.

There are 6 to 8 hams who have already expressed an interest. Like everything else, the more people involved, the fun and the learning increase proportionally. Come and join us Everyone is welcome! No previous experience required!

If interested, please contact me at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

Date and time of next get-together will be April 26 at 7:30 in the club station

73 John VE1CDD

Hi guys, The Summerside Amateur Radio Club will be holding the **PEI Fleamarket** this year on **July 10** beginning at 10AM. The location will be the Charlottetown Flying Club Building adjacent to the Charlottetown Airport on Route 15, not in the airport as such. The cost will be \$3.00 at the door and \$5.00 for a sellers table. For tables or further info contact Bill, VY2FF at
vy2ff@summersidearc.com
or Rodney, VY2CGA at
vy2cga@rac.ca.

There is a restaurant on site so breakfast, coffee and lunch will be available.

Also, The Summerside ARC Website is now at:

<http://www.summersidearc.com>

73 - Ken VY2RU
Summerside Amateur Radio Club

Events for Your '04 Calendar

April 18 – World Amateur Radio Day.

May 2 - Super Cities Walk for MS. Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to get involved.

May 15 – Downeast Flea Market

June (last full weekend) - Field Day

July – Museum Ships Special Event

July & August – Pizza Nights

August – NSARA Picnic

August – Lunenburg Steak & Salmon Supper

August 14 & 15 – MS Bike Tour
Contact Rick Gardner, VE1RGG, to get involved.

October – VHF/UHF Contest

October – JOTA

December - Christmas party

August – International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend 2004 –
0001 UTC Saturday, Aug. 21 until
2359 UTC on Sunday, August 22

6th annual Search & Rescue Competition - will take place September 9 to 11, 2005. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

Speakers for HARC Meetings

May – Jim Fisher, VE1JF

June - Field Day. planning

Jacques VA1JRE (the Quest) has agreed for Sept. or Oct. depending on when they are at sea.

David, VE1EDA will hold an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).

The goal of the net will be to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergencies preparedness.

September 7-12., 2004 - the 12th ARDF World Championships will be held in the Czech Republic

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**February 2004**

Spring has arrived, and now antennas are springing up all over the place. There is a lot of club activity planned for the coming months; Flea Market, MS Walk, Field Day, and several operating events. Some events may not take place if there is not enough interest, look over the event schedule (usually on page 2 of this newsletter) and see what sparks your interest.

On another note, please read the correspondence between the club and the RAC Directors and Executive, also published in this edition of the newsletter. The executive would like your comments on how we should reply. The club usually tries to keep to a point and not get diverted by other issues although other issues are at stake also. Please send comments and thoughts to any executive member. Deadline for receipt of comments and thoughts is the evening of April 21, the club meeting.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR

Field Day Plaque Received
Noted forwarded by John, VE1CDD

"Hi John:

Pleased to report that the plaque was received yesterday. It really is an honour to receive it and our members will be delighted when it's brought along to the next meeting. Also appreciate the cover letter that came with giving some of its history. Now I know what happened to the Halifax club – they were in 2F!

tnx agn, 73

Brian Summers, VE7JKZ"

The club has ordered the **Ander-son Powerpole connectors** and they are available now. The price to members will be \$1.25 each (this is a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. To preorder your supply please contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
If we have extra then we may offer them to non members at a slightly higher price.

MYSYS commands – See

<http://www.larc.unl.edu/packet/appendix.k.html>

Rick, VE1RGG

Maritime Callbook 2004

Editor/Project Manager Howard, VE1DHD, has delivered the callbook to the printer who will produce the first proof copy. Barring the unforeseen, we expect to have the Maritime Callbook 2004 available for sale at the DownEast Flea Market.

**GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE
THAT LITTLE CHILDREN
HAVE LEARNED:**

- 1 No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2 When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3 If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4 Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5 You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6 Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7 Puppies still have bad breath, even after eating a tic-tac.
- 8 Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 9 School lunches stick to the wall.
- 10 Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 11 The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.



Bill Elliott, President,
Halifax Amateur Radio Club
26 March 2004

Dear Bill,

We would like to thank you and all the other members of the HARC for putting on such an interesting and informative Basic Amateur Radio course over the past winter. You all went way beyond the minimum requirements in the course notes and we certainly appreciated the extra insight provided. We especially want to thank Scott Wood whose careful planning, patience and tireless attention to detail created the foundation for such a successful course.

Those of us who took the Morse Code training would also like to thank Don Watters. His knowledge and patience were a perfect combination for this sort of instruction.

Thank you all. We really appreciated your efforts.

Sincerely,

The Basic Amateur Radio Class of 2003/04 (with some requested call signs):

Jeffrey Cusack	Michael D'Costa
Mylene DiPenta	Fred Guptill
Steve Grant (VE1STG)	
John Hopkins	Jim Malone
Thayne MacLean (VE1TDM)	
Ellen Venner-Hiltz (VE1EEV)	
Peter Whalen	Brian Paul (VE1NSX)

Cc: Don Watters, K. Scott Wood



HARC is pleased to welcome the following Newly licensed hams to our hobby:

Jeff Cusack	VE1POW
Mylene DiPenta	VA1LEN
Stephen Grant	VE1STG
Fred Guptill	VE1ROX
John Hopkins	VE1HMH
Thayne MacLean	VE1TDM
Brian Paul	VE1NSX
Ellen Venner-Hiltz	VE1EEV
Peter Whalen	VE1PJW

*Laughing helps.
It's like jogging on the inside.*

Spring has sprung. As we look forward to sunny days we might give some consideration to how radio allows Earth bound observers to learn more about our closest star.

Sunny Radio Signals



Because most cosmic radio signals are very weak, radio astronomy usually demands large antennas and sophisticated equipment. The Sun, however, is by far the strongest radio source in the sky and this presents interesting opportunities for the radio amateur who might have an interest in astronomy.

Solar flares induce changes in the Earth's ionosphere - the layer of ionized particles in the upper atmosphere. The ionosphere usually reflects very low frequency (VLF) signals (5 to 50 kHz), permitting long-distance communication. Disruption of the ionosphere by a solar flare, however, can cause communications fade-out. You can monitor this effect with a radio receiver, antenna, and recorder (either by a strip chart or computer) and a surprisingly little amount of money and effort.

The Sun itself can be detected with any equipment that is capable of receiving signals between 1 and 30 MHz. and a simple antenna. A radio-frequency preamplifier will improve the sensitivity of the system. You can even collect the Sun's signals in the 1 to 4 GHz range using a C-band TVRO (TeleVision Reception Only) parabolic antenna and a receiver. Because of the ever growing popularity of the smaller Ku-band (11.7 to 12.2 GHz) "pizza dishes" there are many of these old C-band "monoliths" that are no longer being used and can be had for little or, in some cases, no money.

For more information on how you can listen in on the Sun you can visit the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers at <http://www.qsl.net/SARA> or the Significant Ionospheric Disturbance section of the American Association of Variable Star Observers at <http://www.aavso.org/>

observing/programs/solar. In book form two fine sources of reference are John Potter Shield's Amateur Radio Astronomers Handbook or Radio Astronomy Projects by Saint Mary's University's own (and amateur radio operator) William (Bill) Lonc, VE1WPL.

73, Wayne - VE1WPH

William (Bill) Lonc, VE1WLC, Releases 2nd Edition of "Radio Astronomy Projects"

Amateur radio astronomers around the world are thumbing through the 2nd edition of Radio Astronomy Projects. First published in 1996, Bill Lonc's collection of some 50 articles originating from the Department of Astronomy and Physics of Saint Mary's University has become a desirable addition to any reference library serving the topic. It is a "How-to" for beginners and experienced amateur radio astronomers offering the classic principles in clear, simple and non-mathematical language.

Bill, VE1WPL, constructs most of the projects with off-the-shelf and surplus items in the VHF through microwave range. Images of his roof top "antenna farm" at the University leave little doubt that he is radio amateur!

This expanded 2nd Edition offers an additional 50 pages. New articles include how to detect meteors using a VHF radio and measuring the height of the F2 ionized layer (quite significant for both radio amateurs and astronomy) using simple amateur radio equipment and techniques.

Bill is a Professor Emeritus of Physics at Saint Mary's here in Halifax. This 2nd edition of Radio Astronomy Projects is available locally at the Saint Mary's Campus Bookstore or on-line at <http://www.radiosky.com>. The price should be less than CDN\$40.

73 for now, Wayne VE1WPH

World Amateur Radio Day

Courtesy of Chris, VA1CDB

The International Amateur Radio Union has announced the theme for World Amateur Radio Day that is celebrating on the 18th of April.

The theme is "Pioneers in Bridging Barriers to World Understanding" - to emphasise the IARU's long history of bridging people together across geographic, cultural and political barriers.

World Amateur Radio Day commemorates the 79th anniversary of the founding of IARU in Paris on the 18th of April, 1925.

The IARU is the world wide federation of amateur radio societies which includes the WIA, and through them represents some three-million radio amateurs in 159 countries.

73's Sohail Anjum, VE3ITU.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 11

ICOM IC-7800

Among the multitude of features of the IC-7800, ICOM's new top-end Amateur Radio HF plus 6-meter transceiver, the IC-7800 offers a seven-inch color TFT display, two independent receivers, a spectrum display, CW autotune, and RTTY and PSK31 capability just by plugging in a keyboard. The IC-7800 will replace the venerable IC-781 as the capstone of Icom's Amateur Radio product line. In terms of performance, Icom Engineering Manager John Gibbs, KC7YXD claims the IC-7800 will offer third-order intercept (IP3) performance in the +40 dBm range and 2-tone, third-order intermodulation distortion dynamic range well in excess of 100 dB. Although a retail price has not yet been firmed up, it's anticipated that owning an IC-7800 will set buyers back less than \$11,000US. The IC-7800 saw action at W1AW during the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) March 6-7. The IC-7800 will be the focus of Icom's Hamvention exhibit May 14-16, and it could be on the market in a month or so.

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/
LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004.

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships (369 in 48 countries for the 2003 weekend.) It is organised by Mike, GM4SUC. Kevin, VK2CE, is the web-master. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC Saturday, Aug. 21 until 2359 UTC on Sunday, August 22, 2004.

The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when amateur radio stations are established at lighthouses or lightships, they do not have to be adjacent to salt water, and each group decides how it will operate the station with regard to modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - operate as much as you can. There are no restrictions on aerials or power. We wish operators to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many stations as possible while still giving priority to other lighthouse/lightship stations. Please take some time to work the slow operator, the newly licensed and QRP stations.

As available space in many lighthouses is filled to capacity, participation in this activity does not have to take place inside the tower itself. Field day type set-up at the light or other buildings next to the light or adjacent field is OK. Permission MUST be obtained from any interested parties.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby. We invite the press and, QTH permitting, also the public and try to underline the parallel between the international aspects in lighthouses, lightships, and amateur radio.

The World Lighthouse Day is held on the Sunday of the event and lighthouse keepers/managers/caretakers all around the world open their lighthouses to the public.

<http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.html>

We use the event segment of the 5 Classic bands; the following is a range of suggested frequencies.

CW

80m: 3.510 - 3.540 kHz
40m: 7.005 - 7.035 kHz
20m: 14.010 - 14.040 kHz
15m: 21.010 - 21.040 kHz
10m: 28.010 - 28.040 kHz

PHONE

*80m: 3.650 - 3.750 kHz
*40m: 7.040 - 7.100 kHz
20m: 14.150 - 14.290 kHz
15m: 21.150 - 21.250 kHz
10m: 28.300 - 28.400 kHz

Some of the frequency ranges listed above are NOT legal in the United States of America. As a substitute, USA operators should consider these alternatives.

USA PHONE

80m: 3.950 - 3.990 kHz
40m: 7.250 - 7.290 kHz

However because the ILLW is NOT a contest, you can operate on any authorised QRGs as per your licence, including the WARC bands. Please be sure to observe band limits for your class of licence and your country.

To assist other stations in the identification of lighthouse/lightship stations, we request that participating stations using CW add LS after their callsign at a lightship and LT at a lighthouse. SSB and other modes should use LIGHT, LGT, LIGHTHOUSE or LIGHTSHIP after their call. UK stations normally obtain a GB callsign with the letter L in the suffix and USA stations can request a Special Event callsign from the ARRL.

A list of the lighthouses/lightships of the world, currently 10,624 in 208 DXCC countries, with their Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society



(ARLHS) Number can be found at <http://arlhs.com/awards/arlhs-numbers.html>

The list is constantly being updating and added to as more data become available. You can help: If you see a correction or an addition needs to be made, please send an e-mail with the information to K2JXW@arrl.net

If you decide to join us, please register on-line at

<http://illw.net/index.html>

with details of your name, callsign to be used, lighthouse/lightship, Country, qsl route etc. Although registration is not compulsory, doing so enables us to maintain a detailed list of participants at

<http://illw.net/2004.htm>

showing QSL address, web site and any special event calls they may be using. E-mail addresses will be modified with unicode to minimise harvesting by spammers.

So come and join us in the fun of the weekend. Already 58 stations have confirmed their participation. Establish a station at a lighthouse, lightship or maritime beacon. If you are unable to find a lighthouse/ship you can still join in the fun by contacting the special lighthouse/ship stations. The more the merrier.

73 Mike GM4SUC
gm4suc@compuserve.com
gm4suc@btinternet.com



*Eagles may soar but weasels
don't get sucked into jet engines*

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 08

Addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon (assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union
<http://www.itu.int/home/index.html>
member-states)

The new character, necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, among other possible purposes. will be "AC" run together

The new character will be the first added to the code in many years.

Halifax Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the General Monthly Meeting of March 17, 2004

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1937 hrs Wednesday, March 17th 2004.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Rick Gardner (VE1RGG) – Second Vice-president; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member at Large.

Silent Keys:

Donnie Mills – VE1CHP – Dartmouth; Bruce Mckone – VE1VCJ – Bridgewater; Roy MacPherson – VE1PS – Margaree Valley; Ted Buckman – VE1TED – Digby.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of 18 February 2004: Approval of the minutes as published in the March 2004 Reflector was moved by Dave (VE1EDA) and seconded by Dave (VE1NN). Motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer – John (VE1CDD) reported a bank balance of \$4,490.75. This is up because of Callbook advertising sales revenues and Callbook pre-orders. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Terry (VE1TRB) and seconded by John (VE1DD). Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

President –

Field Day – Bill reminded the membership that the upcoming Field Day event still lacks a Chair. He mentioned that the event was too important to the Club to let it slip for a year and that if need be, the Executive had agreed to pitch in to organise. Bob (VE1PQ) spoke to this suggesting, stating that the Executive had plenty on their plates and that the membership needed to become more active in Club activities, and drawing attention to the rather low attendance rates at

monthly meetings.

Search & Rescue Competition – Bill informed the group that the 6th annual S&R Competition will take place in September of 2005 from the 9th to the 11th of the month. If the Club is to participate a co-ordinator needs to be found. Dick (VE1AI) and Scott (VE1QD) volunteered to work on this project.

International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend – Bill reminded the membership of this August 22nd (weekend) event. John (VE1CDD) reminded the group that the Club has participated in the past on several occasions; the activation of the Peggy's Cove Lighthouse was one example. No decision was made on Club participation in 2004.

Future of the Bloomfield Centre – Bill reported that the consultant's report on the Centre has been received but he does not expect anything to happen soon, giving the Club lots of time to find alternative accommodations if needed.

2nd Vice-President – Rick informed the membership that the entertainment for the evening would be a talk on Multiple Sclerosis by Lucy Sagar and Sarah Cowen from the Halifax MS Society Office. He also mentioned that upcoming speakers will include:

VE1FA – Fred Archibald – IOTA DXpeditions

VE1JF – Jim Fisher – The Victoria Beach Super Contest Station

Rick informed the group that the Door Prize for the evening was a Crimping Tool Set.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported 19 new members bringing the Club total to 83 Full; 16 Associate; & 2 Life for a grand total of 101. This is down by about 27 from 2003 and down 40 from 2002. Tom reported that Spud Roscoe VE1BC has rejoined the HARC after an absence of some years, and the Club welcomes Howard Eisenhauer, VE1EIS, a newly licensed HAM.

Search and Rescue / Emergency Measures – George (VE1AJP) reported a quiet month with little to report.

2004 Callbook Report – Howard reported that the production of the Callbook is on schedule and barring any catastrophic occurrences will be available for purchase at the Down East Flea Market on 15 May. Howard reminded members that it is not too late to bring in additional advertising revenue and urged their assistance. Fraser (VE1WO) reported that Callbook pre-sales were coming in and that we expect to have a busy time at the HARC Callbook Sale Table on the 15th of May.

Special Interest Groups – Dave (VE1EDA) and John (VE1CDD) reminded the membership that the APRS, Satellite and Digital Modes Interest Groups would be meeting this month. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Dave (APRS) and John (Satellite & Digital Modes) for information.

HAM Class – Scott (VE1QD) reported that the class is now finished and the students will write their exam next week. He expects 12 to take the exam. Scott also mentioned that one of the members of the class had already taken and passed his CW exam. Scott expressed his appreciation to those Club members who had assisting with the course this year. He informed the membership that Howard (VE1DHD) will take over as Course Organiser in 2004/2005.

Old Business:

Field Day 2003 – 2A Plaque – John (VE1CDD) reported that he had sent off the 2A Plaque to the BC Club that won this past year. The new 2F Plaque that was won by the HARC is now on display in the Club Station. A nice email was received from Brian Summers, VE7JKZ, acknowledging receipt of the plaque and stating how proud they were to have won this year.

(Continued on page 7)

Never lick a steak knife.

Minutes (Continued from page 6)

New Business:

Bill informed the membership that Dave (VE1NN) had resigned as Atlantic Regional Director for RAC. Dave indicated that he had recommended to the Board that Bill Gillis (VE1WG) be appointed on an interim basis pending a full election. There appears to be a reluctance on the part of the President and the Directors to make that interim appointment. Bill reported that the Club Executive had discussed the matter and had developed a strategy to rally the support of other clubs in the Atlantic Region. Letters have been sent to the President and Directors of RAC with the request to appoint Mr. Gillis. The President of RAC has responded and Bill outlined the response. Club members were upset at the response and Bill (VE1MR) agreed to write to the President of RAC to acknowledge his response, but to also write individually to the Directors with a follow-up request to have Bill Gillis appointed. Dave (VE1NN) informed the group that a new website –

www.saverac.ca

– has been set up outside of RAC to serve as a vehicle to express opinions and share solutions with respect to the problems facing RAC. He hopes that the website will serve to activate the RAC membership to make their Directors responsible.

Announcements:

HAM Breakfast – Bill reminded the membership that the HAM Breakfast that was postponed because of the storm in February will talk place on Saturday March 20th at the Steak and Stein on Young St. in Halifax.

MS Plaque of Appreciation - Rick (VE1RGG) passed on to the Club a plaque of appreciation that he had received from the MS Society acknowledging the assistance of HARC members with the MS Bike Tour.

50:50 Draw – won by Lynn (VE1ENT)



Door Prize – won by
Dick (VE1AI) –
Crimping Tool Set.

The meeting adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Evening Entertainment – The membership was informed about the history, mission and research of the MS Society. Lucy Sagar and Sarah Cowen from the Halifax Office of the MS Society addressed the meeting. They outlined the nature of the disease and provided an insight into the research – some of which is taking place under the direction of Dr. Jock Murray in the MS Research Unit at the Medical School – that is being done here in Canada, supported by funds raised by the MS Bike Tour. The contribution of the HARC membership in support of the Bike Tour is very important.

Respectfully submitted by
Howard, VE1DHD, Secretary



Answer to puzzler on page 1

With Basic and 5 wpm qualification can you use a Heathkit transceiver to operate on HF?

Answer: No. It is not commercially built equipment

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a **warning** after three incidents in which mobile phones (cell phones) ignited fumes during fueling operations. In the 1st case, the phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the 2nd, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

In the 3rd, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang. While they were fueling their car.

You should know that: Mobile Phones can ignite fuel or fumes. Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition. Mobile phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fueling lawn mow-

ers, boat! , Etc.

Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust, (i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain etc.)

To sum it up, here are the:

Four Rules for Safe Refueling

- 1) Turn off engine
- 2) Don't smoke
- 3) Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
- 4) Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling

Bob Renkes of Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires.

His results were very surprising:

- 1) Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
- 2) Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.
- 3) Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- 4) Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished.
- 5) Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas
- 6) It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling.
- 8) 17 fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door **TOUCHING THE METAL**, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

You can find out more information by going to <http://www.pei.org/> Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static".

Since HARC's last general meeting president Bill, VE1MR, has been corresponding on behalf of HARC with RAC's executive. F.Y.I. copies of exchanged e-mails follow. Bill's added comments are in italics -ed.

This is the original Letter sent to the RAC president, Executive and remaining Directors. It was drafted by the Executive of the HARC on behalf of the club since we deemed time was of the essence.

Thurs, 04 Mar 2004

From: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

To: ve2ka@rac.ca

Copies to: ve2br@rac.ca, ve3kz@rac.ca, ve3iq@rac.ca, va3pm@rac.ca, ve7dk@rac.ca, ve6nm@rac.ca, ve5fx@rac.ca, ve3xk@rac.ca, ve3bdb@rac.ca

Subject: Letter to RAC President, Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA, Executive and Directors.

Dear Mr. President:

David Nimmo - VE1NN - RAC's Atlantic Regional Director, has just advised the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) Executive that he has tendered his resignation as Director.

As one of the Atlantic Region's larger clubs with over 100 members and a club in which the majority of the members are also RAC members, we are concerned. The HARC has provided the last three Atlantic Regional Directors and a recent RAC First Vice-Presidents. All resigned prior to the expiry of their term of office.

Given that RAC represents all Canadian Radio Amateurs to Industry Canada, there is concern within our club regarding the current conduct of RAC affairs and just how such conduct may be negatively affecting the relationship between Canadian amateurs and Industry Canada. With the changes to the International Radio Regulations that were introduced at WRC 2003, amateurs are currently in a position where they must exhibit a strong credible profile with our government regulator. We are concerned that if the serious problems within RAC are not cleared up quickly, this national organization will lose its influence and the support of many amateurs, and credibility with Industry Canada.

The HARC Executive was also disturbed to learn that after having expressed concern for a speedy replacement for yourself as Quebec Director, the Quebec Section Manager, who was voted to

serve as Director almost two months ago by the Board, has not yet been appointed.

The HARC Executive is extremely concerned that the Atlantic Region be well represented on the RAC Board of Directors. Accordingly, we unanimously support the appointment of Mr. Bill Gillis - VE1WG - as the Atlantic Regional Director pending an election.

We request your assurances that Bill Gillis will be appointed without delay and in time for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in early May.

We await your reply to our concerns.

Sincerely yours, Bill Elliott - VE1MR
- President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club. VE1MR@RAC.ca

This is Mr. Lamoureux's reply.

Sun, 14 Mar 2004 From: "Daniel A. Lamoureux" <dlamour@sympatico.ca>
To: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
CC: dlamour@sympatico.ca, RAC-board@rac.ca

Subject: Re: Letter to RAC President, Executive and Directors.

Mr Bill Elliott - VE1MR President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club.
Mister President.

I thank you for your letter reproduced below and your concerns are acknowledged.

It is sadly true that Dave Nimmo, VE1NN, was the third individual to resign his position as Atlantic Region Director in less than two years. To these, we also have to add the resignation of a First Vice-President. I firmly believe that the Atlantic Region needs a more stable representation in order to better serve the RAC membership in the region.

It is unfortunate that former Director Nimmo seems to be blaming the present Board Chairman for all of RAC's problems, less than three months after my having taken office. I can assure you that the present RAC President and Chairman has scrupulously observed all of the articles of the RAC Constitution and of Roberts Rules of Order since taking office first as a Director and now as President and Chairman. Any pretense or purported proof to the contrary are only half truths or distortions of facts.

In your message below you say: "We request your assurances that Bill Gillis will be appointed without delay and in time for the annual meeting of the

Board of Directors in early May". Unfortunately, I cannot make that assurance as I am not the one deciding on the replacement appointment to the position of Atlantic Region Director. The RAC Constitution says two things that directly apply in this instance:

1 - "If any director vacancy shall occur for any reason, the Board of Directors may by appointment fill the vacancy with a person in good standing on the books of the corporation as a Full Member, and having the other qualifications required of directors."

2 - "The President ... shall be subject to instructions from the Board of Directors".

The above means that the RAC Board of Directors will decide by a vote who will be replacing former Director Nimmo. In accordance with the RAC Constitution, the RAC President/Chairman, not having a vote, has nothing to do in the decision except to call for the vote and announce the results.

The above also applies to my replacement as Quebec Region Director.

When I took over the Presidency on Jan 1st, I faced a list of problems, including a decline in RAC membership of almost 20% in the last year and a split Board. Problems have been prioritized and will be tackled in turn. We hope that results will be starting to appear soon.

I hope that the foregoing clarified some of your concerns. Do not hesitate to contact me again if the need arises.

73, Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada.
ve2ka@rac.ca

On behalf of the club I sent a thank you reply as follows.

Sun, 21 Mar 2004

From: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

To: "Daniel A. Lamoureux"

<dlamour@sympatico.ca>

Subject: Thank You.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA RAC President

Dear Mr. President:

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club thanks you for your reply. We were fortunate to have a club meeting shortly after your reply was received and could read it aloud to the members. Unfortunately many members perceived parts of your reply to be an insult. Whether it was intended as an insult or not, the perception was there.

"PERCEPTION IS REALITY"

Several of the HARC executive and

members have been trained in Federal service and the above quote was drilled into us.

Our request for your assurances that Bill Gillis will be appointed without delay and in time for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in early May was directed to you and all RAC board members. We understand that as President of RAC you cannot unilaterally make the appointment but it must be ratified by the board members. Many of our members have been RAC members for quite a number of years and have seen the appointment of Directors to take over the remainder of a term many times. The appointment has usually been the person recommended by the resigning director and the delays have been minimal.

HARC is sending requests directly to each remaining Director asking for a personal reply.

Again we thank you for your reply and hope any problems will be worked out before the annual general meeting of RAC.

Thank you and 73 – Bill Elliott, VE1MR, President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club.

This is an example of the letter I wrote on behalf of the club to the 5 remaining directors.

Sun, 21 Mar 2004 From: Lynn Bowser <bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca>

To: ve3bdb@rac.ca

Subject: Letter from HARC.

R. D. (Bob) Cooke, VE3BDB, RAC Director for Ontario South

Dear Mr. Cooke

As a member of the board of directors of RAC the Halifax Amateur Radio Club requests a reply to the following.

David Nimmo – VE1NN – RAC's Atlantic Regional Director, has advised the Halifax Amateur Radio Club (HARC) that he has tendered his resignation as Director.

As one of the Atlantic Region's larger clubs with over 100 members and a club in which the majority of the members are also RAC members, we are concerned. The HARC has provided the last three Atlantic Regional Directors and a recent RAC First Vice-President. All resigned prior to the expiry of their term of office.

Given that RAC represents all Canadian Radio Amateurs to Industry Canada, there is concern within our club regarding the current conduct of RAC affairs and just how such conduct may be negatively affecting the relationship between Canadian amateurs and Industry Canada.

With the changes to the International Radio Regulations that were introduced at WRC 2003, amateurs are currently in a position where they must exhibit a strong credible profile with our government regulator. We are concerned that if the serious problems within RAC are not cleared up quickly, this national organization will lose its influence and the support of many amateurs, and credibility with Industry Canada.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club is extremely concerned that the Atlantic Region be well represented on the RAC Board of Directors. Accordingly, we unanimously support the appointment of Mr. Bill Gillis – VE1WG – as the Atlantic Regional Director pending an election.

We request your assurances that Mr. Bill Gillis will be appointed without delay and in time for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in early May.

We await your reply to our concerns.

Sincerely yours, Bill Elliott –

VE1MR – President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club. ve1mr@rac.ca

Here are the replies we received from 2 RAC Directors. Allowing for the time difference the first was replied to within a couple of hours and the second the next morning as I would expect. I sent thank you notes for these two replies to let them know they had been received.

Sun, 21 Mar 2004

From: denliv@telus.net

To: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Dear Mr Elliott

I also share your concerns re the conduct of the affairs of RAC but it is unfortunate that I am just one of 5 remaining Directors.

On Mar 04-2004 I submitted a motion that " W Gillis be appointed by the RAC Board of Directors to complete the unfinished term of Director Nimmo".

This Motion was seconded by Director Madsen of Mid Western Canada, the motion was approved by the President as a legitimate motion and was given to the Board on Mar 05-2004. Several votes have been submitted and I can state that on Mar 14 2004 the Mover and Seconder as would be expected voted in favour of the motion. The closing date for the voting is Mar 29 2004 and as all votes are not yet

completed I am sorry but I cannot comment further, I anticipate that the President will announce the result very shortly following which the result will be made known to the membership.

Let me state, that I found that President Gillis during his term of office was a most effective officer of RAC and went through much harassment and attempted to deal with many of the problems in the Organisation. It is my opinion that his position became untenable due to the actions of a group of Directors who appeared to object to his use of correct procedural actions and adherence to the RAC Constitution and By laws and his expectancy that the Directors and Executive would do likewise, I was really hoping that he would be appointed without delay.

Mr Nimmo, Director Madsen and myself have attempted to abide by the principles that a Director is supposed to, Namely to represent ALL Amateurs in Canada and to make decisions on their behalf that we believed are the best for the amateurs and the RAC. I was extremely saddened by the resignation of Director Nimmo but fully understand his reasons he was harassed during the length of his term starting on the first day of him being appointed. I found him to be very concerned with the needs of the Members in his Region and spoke up when required. It is a great loss for RAC.

As I stated I am only one of 5 remaining Directors with the three of the four remaining being part of what I jokingly referred to as "The Group of Four". We are at present attempting to obtain a representative as Director for the Quebec Region, the original choice was rejected following two different results of the voting and a name of a different candidate was submitted, I believe that you are aware of the person I refer to following his announcement on a 7 MHz Net that he would be the new Director for Quebec region, Voting is still under way for this position!!!!

Vy 73 Dennis Livesey Director Pacific Region

Mon, 22 Mar 2004 From: "Bj. Madsen" <bj.madsen@sasktel.net>

To: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Hi Bill: From the heading of your letter, I'm not sure whether it was intended for me or for Director Cooke, who is the director for Ontario South. My region is the MidWest (Manitoba & Saskatchewan).

However, you can be assured that I am quite aware of the situation in the Atlantic Region and, as the seconder to the motion currently before the Board of Directors which names Bill Gillis to be appointed to fill the Director's position on an interim basis, am fully supportive.

Unfortunately, I cannot assure you that Mr. Gillis will be appointed, as that is determined by a vote of the five current members of the Board of Directors

If I can provide you with anything further, please be sure to let me know.

Regards, Bj. Madsen - VE5FX RAC
MidWest Regional Director

I did not have a reply from the remaining 3 RAC Directors for over a week so sent a reminder with our letter attached as follows. I have left off the letter since it is above.

Tue, 30 Mar 2004 From: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
To: ve3bdb@rac.ca
Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Dear Mr. Cooke

I can only assume our original letter got lost in the shuffle.

A reply would be courteous, regardless of your stand.

The HARC did receive replies from some directors but not from you.

Thank you. Bill Elliott – VE1MR –
President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club.
ve1mr@rac.ca

Tue, 30 Mar 2004 From: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
To: ve6nm@rac.ca
Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Dear Mr. Smith

Our club is wondering why you have not replied to original letter.

A reply would be courteous, regardless of your stand.

The HARC did receive replies from some directors but not from you.

Thank you. Bill Elliott – VE1MR –
President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club.
ve1mr@rac.ca

Tue, 30 Mar 2004 From: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
To: ve3xk@rac.ca
Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Dear Mr. Leach

I cannot understand why you have not replied to our original letter.

A reply would be courteous, regardless of your stand.

The HARC did receive replies from some directors but not from you.

Thank you. Bill Elliott – VE1MR –
President, Halifax Amateur Radio Club.
ve1mr@rac.ca

I then promptly received replies from 2 more RAC Directors. While these were prompt I do not believe they answer what was asked, either positively or negatively. I have not replied to these yet and would request the memberships comments for a suitable reply.

Tue, 30 Mar 2004

From: "E.W. Smith" <ve6nm@rac.ca>
To: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Good Evening, Lynn: My apologies for not responding before.

It would appear, from the reading of your email, that HARC has already made up its mind as to how they wish to see future events unfold. Living as we do in a democracy I accept that individuals can make up their minds based on what they see and hear. That's fair, I would have to say.

However, speaking as a former Nova Scotian I know you'll understand when I ask that you extend the same privilege to me and my fellow Directors in RAC while allowing us to make the best decision we can for all of RAC, not just the Atlantic Region.

73 Earle Smith - VE6NM RAC Director for AB/NT/NU ex-VE1SA VE1ZQ

Tue, 30 Mar 2004 From: "Bob Cooke" <ve3bdb@encode.com>
To: bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca
Subject: Re: Letter from HARC.

Dear Lynn and/or Bill:

Your decision, and/or that of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, to unanimously support the appointment of Mr. Bill Gillis, VE1WG, as the Atlantic Regional Director pending an election, is of course your democratic right, just as it is mine to act in what I believe to be the best interests of RAC, based upon the full information at my disposal. I expect you will allow me that right, just as I respect your right to differ.

I would offer this advice: a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. You and those whom you state you represent have apparently elected to embrace unsubstantiated innuendo and opinion. I suggest it would be helpful to all who are genuinely concerned, and for those whom you indicate as representing, to ask those who put forward that innuendo to produce irrefutable proof of their allegations. And, it would only be fair and

reasonable of you, and of those whom you indicate as representing, to give the benefit of the doubt which simply must exist in your minds because nothing has been presented to support the allegations of those who are making those statements. Has any of your group asked for such proof? Why has no such evidence been produced? I leave that for you to decide.

Thank you for your interest in and support of RAC.

73, Bob R.D. (Bob) Cooke
VE3BDB Director Ontario South Region Radio Amateurs of Canada
"We're ALL about Amateur Radio!"
"Tous ensembles pour la radioamateur!"

As this is put in the newsletter the results of a vote by RAC Directors on the motion to appoint Bill Gillis as interim RAC Atlantic Director has been announced as defeated 2 voted for and 3 voted against. We still have not heard from Director Leach but he voted against, along with Director Cooke and Director Smith.

RAC Bulletin 04-07E - New interim director for Quebec

The RAC Board of Directors has approved Murray Epstein, VE2AUU, as the interim Director for Quebec pending the results of an upcoming election in the next few weeks. Murray has been an Amateur for more than 55 years, and is very active both on and off the air. He has been an important innovator both as a Ham and in the business world.

See www.aidrac.ca

Apr. 24 & 25, 2004, QCWA Special Event – The Fred Hammond Chapter 73 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Chapter with a Special Event station on April 24 & 25, 2004 1300Z to 2100Z each day.

Operation will be from the Hammond Museum of Radio using the call VE3HC starting on the following frequencies as conditions permit.
3762.5 3890 7244 14262 21365
28325 QSL to
Hammond Museum of Radio VE3BJ
595 Southgate Dr. Guelph, ON
N1G 3W6

For more info visit their website at www.qcwa.ca or contact Harold VE3DWH at ve3dwh@rac.ca